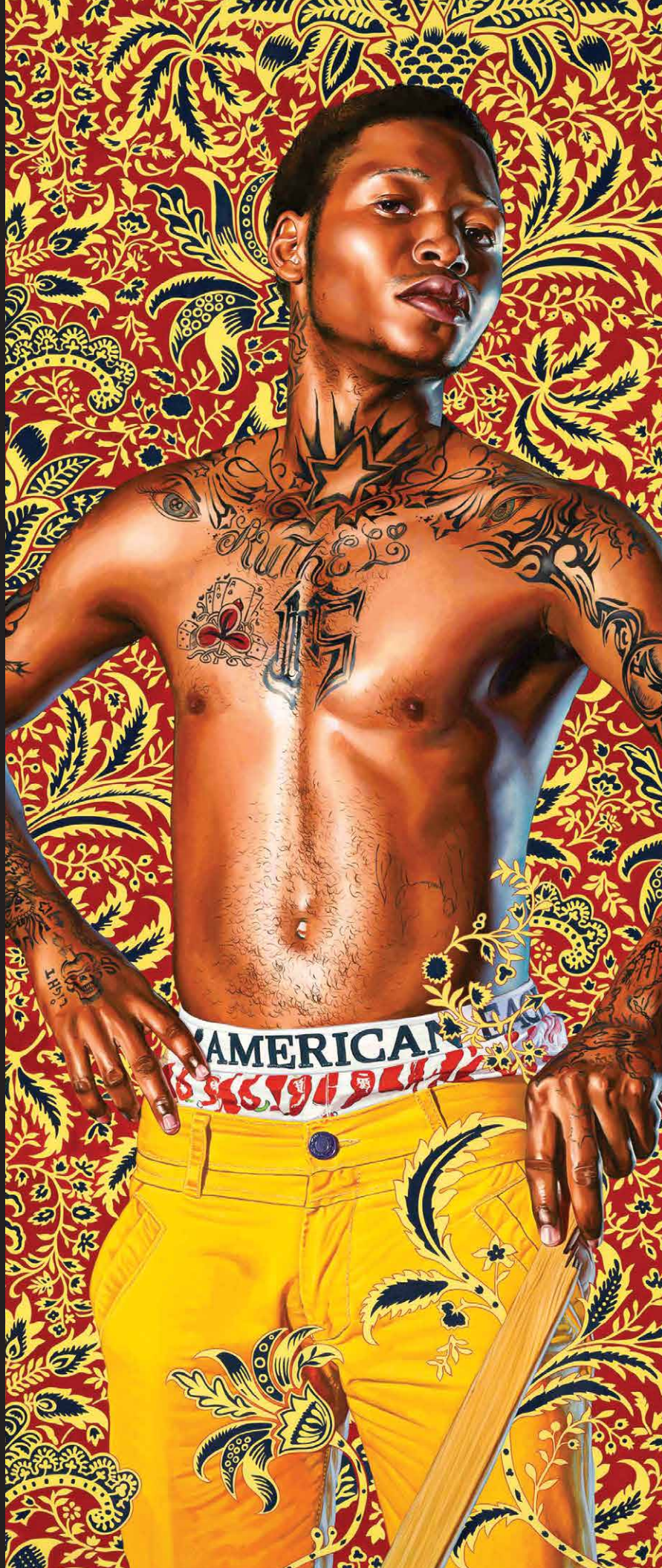
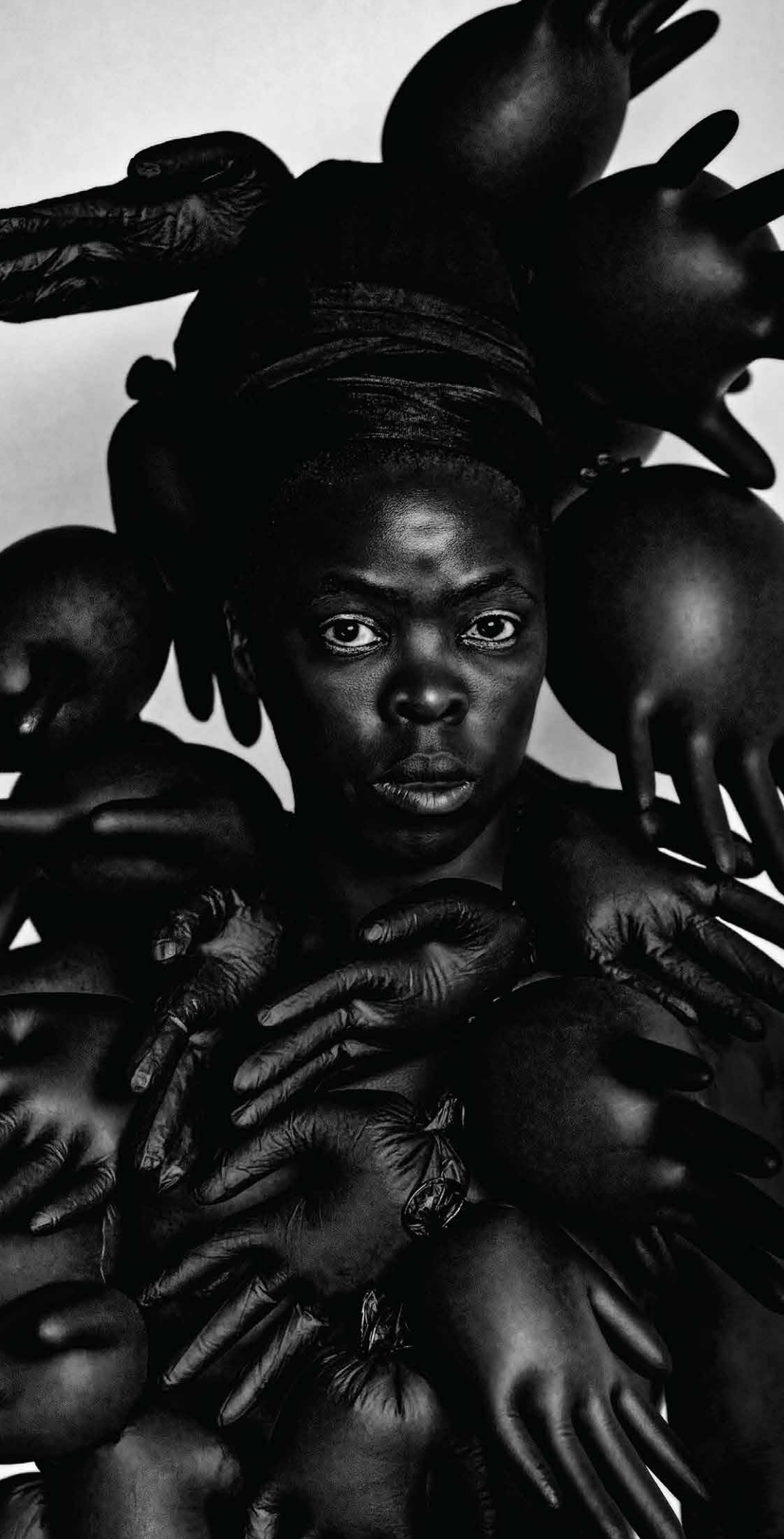


# GALLERY GUIDE

APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2023







# SEEING STARS

Works from the  
Fischer / Shull Collection  
of Contemporary Art

April 1 – September 24, 2023

*SEEING STARS: Works from the Fischer/Shull Collection of Contemporary Art* offers a rare opportunity to view works from a private collection that includes some of the most significant artists of our time. With admirable stewardship, Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull have undoubtedly amassed one of the most important art collections in North Carolina. Works by the 22 groundbreaking artists in *SEEING STARS* have been exhibited at museums and galleries around the world.

In a recent interview in *Artsuite*, an online platform dedicated to connecting artists with collectors, Fischer and Shull described their collection in the following way: "Our art collection is a reflection of our values. We are not interested in style, but rather the authenticity of the artist's voice and the possibilities that the work addresses. We support artists and their ideas and want to elevate the conversation of how their work can create a more inclusive, diverse, robust, and authentic world. We are particularly interested in work that addresses issues of identity, politics, and popular culture as it pertains to American race and gender relations. We began acquiring

ARTWORK CREDIT (LEFT): Zanele Muholi, *Phila 1*, 2016, Gelatin silver print, 31.5 x 21.06 inches, Courtesy of the Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull Collection of Contemporary Art.

ARTWORK CREDIT (BELOW): Trenton Doyle Hancock, *I Want to Be at the Meeting After the Separation*, 2014, Acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 90 x 108 x 3.25 inches, Courtesy of the Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull Collection of Contemporary Art.



work together in our travels to New York and London 25 years ago and were introduced to Alison and Betye Saar whose work helped shape our trajectory of interest in artists of color.”<sup>1</sup>

### **ARTIST IN FOCUS: KEHINDE WILEY**

Kehinde Wiley’s signature portraits of everyday men and women riff on specific paintings by Old Masters, replacing the European aristocrats depicted in those paintings with contemporary Black subjects, drawing attention to the absence of African Americans from historical and cultural narratives. By applying the visual vocabulary and conventions of glorification, history, wealth, and prestige to the subject matter drawn from the urban fabric, the subjects and stylistic references for his paintings are juxtaposed inversions of each other, forcing ambiguity and provocative perplexity to pervade his imagery. The subjects in Wiley’s paintings often wear sneakers, hoodies, and baseball caps, gear associated with hip-hop culture, and are set against contrasting ornate decorative backgrounds that evoke earlier eras and a range of cultures.

### **ARTIST IN FOCUS: VANESSA GERMAN**

Poet, performer, and sculptor, Vanessa German’s work explores the power of transformation and healing. She scours her Pittsburgh neighborhood searching for objects to incorporate into her art. “I surrender myself to the objects that call up to me,” she has said. Her intricate mixed-media sculptures combine doll parts, antique tins, cowrie shells, household objects, and African beads. With these three-dimensional collages, German reclaims objects and words that symbolize the oppression of African Americans for generations, creating serene, if surreal, figures that call to mind religious icons, Congolese minkisi sculpture, and folk art traditions.

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<sup>1</sup>“Hedy Fischer & Randy Shull.” *Artsuite*. 2022. Web. 1 April 2023.

ARTWORK CREDIT (RIGHT): Vanessa German, *Sad Rapper (detail)*, 2022, Wood, tar, blue jeans, cloth, bed sheets, canvas, prayer beads, paint, foam, glue, and plaster, 78 x 46.5 x 39 inches, Courtesy of the Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull Collection of Contemporary Art.





## Artists Featured in SEEING STARS

Sanford Biggers	Pope.L	Alison Saar
Leonardo Drew	Simone Leigh	Paul Mpagi Sepuya
Aaron Fowler	Kerry James Marshall	David Shrobe
Vanessa German	Emmanuel Massillon	Nari Ward
Aaron Gilbert	Rodney McMillian	Kehinde Wiley
Trenton Doyle Hancock	Troy Michie	Peter Williams
Rashid Johnson	Zanele Muholi	
Titus Kaphar	Aida Muluneh	

**HEDY FISCHER AND RANDY SHULL'S** breathtaking art collection underscores multiple generations of Black creators who've used painting, photography, sculpture, and more to express profound ideas about race, gender, and culture in global society. The Gantt Center is a wonderful setting for such a powerful presentation. I'm incredibly honored to play a role in bringing a private collection built with such care and prescience to the Charlotte community.

- **DEXTER WIMBERLY**, EXHIBITION CURATOR



Peter Williams, *He Was A Global Traveler*, 2020, Oil and graphite on canvas, 72 x 96 inches, Courtesy of the Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull Collection of Contemporary Art.

## About the Curator

Dexter Wimberly is an American curator based in Japan who has organized exhibitions in galleries and institutions around the world including the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City, The Green Family Art Foundation in Dallas, KOKI Arts in Tokyo, Bode Projects in Berlin, and The Third Line in Dubai. Wimberly is a Senior Critic at New York Academy of Art, and the founder and director of the Hayama Artist Residency in Japan.



Leonardo Drew, *Number 245*, 2020, Wood and paint, 64 x 61 x 14 inches, Courtesy of the Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull Collection of Contemporary Art. © Leonardo Drew. Courtesy Galerie Lelong & Co.

## About the Gantt

The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture is a multidisciplinary arts institution located in the heart of Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1974, the Gantt's mission is to present, preserve, and celebrate excellence in the art, history, and culture of African-Americans and those of African descent through visual and literary arts, dance, music, film, educational programs, theatre productions, and community outreach. The Gantt features fine art exhibitions from around the world and is home to the nationally celebrated John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art, which was generously donated by Bank of America, and is accessible online.

Named for Charlotte civic leader and former mayor Harvey Bernard Gantt, the Gantt is housed in an iconic, award-winning structure designed by architect Philip Freelon, co-designer of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

Join us on socials! @HBGanttCenter



**Harvey B. Gantt Center**  
for African-American Arts+Culture

AT LEVINE CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
551 S. TRYON ST • CHARLOTTE, NC 28202  
704.547.3700 • GANTTCENTER.ORG



Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture is supported, in part, by the Infusion Fund and its generous donors.

COVER ARTWORK CREDIT: Kehinde Wiley, *Prince Albert, Prince Consort of Queen Victoria*, 2013, Oil on canvas, 72 x 60 inches, Courtesy of the Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull Collection of Contemporary Art.